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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid which encodes a polypeptide having root transcriptional factor activity comprising a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a polynucleotide having at least 97.5% sequence identity, as determined by the GAP algorithm under default parameters, across the full length of a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - (b) a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 1; and
 - (c) a polynucleotide which is complementary to a polynucleotide of (a) or (b).
2. (Previously presented) A recombinant expression cassette, comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1 operably linked, in sense or anti-sense orientation, to a promoter.
3. (Currently amended) A plant host cell comprising the recombinant expression cassette of claim 2.
4. (Previously presented) A transgenic plant comprising the recombinant expression cassette of claim 2.
5. (Original) The transgenic plant of claim 4, wherein said plant is a monocot.
6. (Original) The transgenic plant of claim 4, wherein said plant is selected from the group consisting of: maize, soybean, sunflower, sorghum, canola, wheat, alfalfa, cotton, rice, barley, and millet.

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7. (Original) A transgenic seed from the transgenic plant of claim 4.
8. (Currently amended) A method of modulating the level of a nitrate-responsive root transcriptional factor in a plant, comprising:
 - (a) introducing into a plant cell a recombinant expression cassette comprising the polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide having root transcriptional factor activity of claim 1 operably linked to a promoter;
 - (b) culturing the plant cell under plant cell growing conditions;
 - (c) regenerating a plant from said plant cell; and
 - (d) inducing expression of said polynucleotide for a time sufficient to modulate the level of nitrate-responsive root transcriptional factor in said plant.
9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said plant is maize.
10. (Withdrawn) An isolated protein comprising a member selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a polypeptide of at least 20 contiguous amino acids from a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2;
 - (b) a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2;
 - (c) a polypeptide having at least 75% sequence identity to, and having at least one epitome in common with, a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said sequence identity is determined by GAP algorithm under default parameters; and,
 - (d) at least one polypeptide encoded by a member of claim 1.